

Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2039

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOR PA AND PA/PRESS, DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR
DR. BREZEZINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT - PRESS REMARKS

REF: STATE 167242-C

1. FOLLOWING IS JOINT PRESS BRIEFING BY FOREIGN
MINISTER GROMYKO AND SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AT THE
END OF THEIR TALKS IN GENEVA, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1978:

MR. GROMYKO: DURING THESE TWO DAYS A THOROUGH EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS WAS HELD ON SOME QUESTIONS OF INTEREST BOTH TO
THE SOVIET UNION AND TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
PRIMARY ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE QUESTIONS RELATING
TO THE PREPARATION OF A NEW AGREEMENT ON THE LIMITATION
OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. BOTH SIDES CONSIDER THAT
THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THESE QUESTIONS WAS USEFUL
AND PROVIDES A BASIS FOR FURTHER BRINGING THE POSITIONS
OF THE SIDES ON THE OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS CLOSER
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TOGETHER. THE DISCUSSION OF THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE
CONTINUED. AMONG OTHERS, THERE WERE DISCUSSED THE
QUESTION OF THE COMPLETE AND GENERAL BAN ON NUCLEAR
WEAPONS TESTS, THE PROBLEM OF THE MIDDLE EAST
SETTLEMENT AND SOME QUESTIONS OF BI-LATERAL RELATIONS.

MR. VANCE: THANK YOU, MR. MINISTER. AS THE FOREIGN

MINISTER HAS INDICATED, NEW IDEAS WERE PUT FORWARD BY BOTH SIDES. THEY WERE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH BETWEEN US. THE CONVERSATIONS, AS THE FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED, WERE USEFUL, AND WILL SERVE AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER NARROWING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US. WE ALSO COVERED A NUMBER OF OTHER SUBJECTS AS HE HAS INDICATED, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR DISCUSSIONS AND WILL BE KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER.

QUESTION: WHEN DO YOU EXPECT THE NEXT MEETING TO BE ON THE SUBJECT OF SALT?

MR. VANCE: WE WILL BE IN TOUCH ON THE SUBJECT OF SALT PROBABLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE TWO OF US WILL BE MEETING, BUT WE WILL BE COMMUNICATING WITH EACH OTHER ON THAT SUBJECT.

QUESTION: WHEN WILL YOU MEET YOURSELVES NEXT?

MR. GROMYKO: WELL, AT ANY RATE WE WILL BE MEETING SOMETIME IN THE FALL, SOMETIME DURING THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, COULD IT BE SAID THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE HELPED TO REDUCE THAT AGGRAVATION THAT YOU TALKED ABOUT IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS?
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MR. VANCE: THE TALKS, AS I INDICATED EARLIER, HAVE BEEN USEFUL, AND I THINK THEY HAVE SERVED A GOOD PURPOSE IN HELPING TO NARROW--OR PROVIDING A BASIS FOR HELPING TO NARROW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THERE IS A BASIS FOR MAKING A SALT AGREEMENT, OR COMPLETING ONE, DURING THIS YEAR?

MR. VANCE: WE BOTH HOPE THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE A SOUND SALT AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH OUR NATIONS AND IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORLD THIS YEAR. AND WE WILL BOTH STRIVE...

MR. GROMYKO: THE SOONER THE BETTER.

MR. VANCE: RIGHT, THE SOONER THE BETTER.

QUESTION: MR. MINISTER, WOULD PROGRESS HAVE BEEN EASIER WERE THERE NOT THIS DISTRACTION OF CONTROVERSY OVER TRIALS IN THE SOVIET UNION? DID IT GET IN YOUR WAY--THAT CONTROVERSY?

MR. GROMYKO: THAT IS A QUESTION WHICH IS WITHIN THE
INTERNAL COMPETENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION. AND I HAVE NO
INTENTION OF DISCUSSING IT WITH ANYONE, EVEN WITH YOU.
AND I TRUST YOU WILL UNDERSTAND ME CORRECTLY. I WILL
TAKE NO OFFENSE.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, DID YOU DISCUSS AFRICA AT ALL?

MR. VANCE: JUST TOUCHED ON IT LIGHTLY IN PASSING.
NOT REALLY.

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QUESTION: IS THAT BECAUSE YOU THINK THE SITUATION IN
AFRICA HAS CHANGED, BECAUSE ABOUT A MONTH AGO YOU WERE
QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT IT?

MR. VANCE: WELL, WE HAVE DISCUSSED AFRICA ON A NUMBER
OF OCCASIONS AND EXCHANGED VIEWS ON IT BOTH BETWEEN
THE TWO OF US AND IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER OFFICIALS.

QUESTION: MR. VANCE, BY SAYING THAT YOU'VE MADE SOME
PROGRESS THAT IS USEFUL FOR PROVIDING A BASIS FOR
NARROWING THE GAP, DOES THAT MEAN THAT IT'S A FACT
THAT OF THE REMAINING TOUGH ISSUES YOU STILL HAVEN'T
RESOLVED EITHER OF THOSE?

MR. VANCE: I WOULD SAY THE ANSWER IS YES. WE HAVE NOT
RESOLVED EITHER, BUT I THINK WHAT WE SAID WE HAVE, BY
THESE CONVERSATIONS, PROVIDED A BASIS FOR, HOPEFULLY,

NARROWING THE REMAINING GAP.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, DOES THE PROSPECT FOR A TREATY SEEM TO BE MOVING BACKWARDS ALL THE TIME? ARE YOU STILL THINKING OF A THREE-YEAR PROTOCOL OR IS THAT KIND OF UNCLASSIFIED

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BLENDING INTO THE LIFE OF THE TREATY AT THIS POINT?

MR. VANCE: WELL, I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO DETAILS. I HAVE SAID ALL ALONG THAT I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO DETAILS OF ANY OF THESE THINGS WHICH WE ARE NEGOTIATING AND I AM JUST GOING TO ADHERE TO THAT.

QUESTION: IS THE OCTOBER 1 COMMUNIQUE STILL STANDING?
MR. GROMYKO: WHOM ARE YOU ASKING?

QUESTIONER: YOU.

MR. GROMYKO: FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW THAT STATEMENT IS STILL VALID AND I GUESS THE SECRETARY OF STATE WILL GIVE HIS ANSWER FOR THE UNITED STATES.

MR. VANCE: YES, FROM OUR STANDPOINT IT IS STILL VALID.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, YOU SAID THAT YOU HAVE NARROWED THE DIFFERENCES OR THAT IT HAS BEEN USEFUL FOR NARROWING THE DIFFERENCES...

MR. VANCE: PROVIDING A BASIS FOR NARROWING THE DIFFERENCES.

QUESTION: COULD YOU SAY, SIR, YOU HAVE NARROWED THE DIFFERENCES AT ALL CONCERNING THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE CONCERNING THE TWO COUNTRIES--NOT SPECIFICALLY RELATING TO SALT--BUT GENERALLY ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THE RELATIONS WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS?

MR. VANCE: THERE ARE STILL CLEARLY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US ON CERTAIN ISSUES. I THINK ALWAYS, THOUGH, IT IS USEFUL TO HAVE A CHANCE TO SIT DOWN AND HAVE A FACE-TO-FACE DISCUSSION ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES INCLUDING ANY WHICH EITHER OF US WISH TO RAISE. I FIND IT UNCLASSIFIED

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HELPFUL AND USEFUL, AND I HOPE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER DOES TOO.

MR. GROMYKO: WELL, I WOULD SAY, JUST BY ADDING TO WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS SAID, IT IS ABSOLUTELY TRUE THAT

THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN OUR POLICIES. BUT IF THERE
IS A DESIRE AND THE WILL TO NARROW DOWN AND ELIMINATE
THOSE DIFFERENCES, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY TO DO SO.
AND THE BUILDING OF PEACE AND OF FURTHER DETENTE IS
CERTAINLY WORTH THE EFFORT EXPENDED ON THEM.
QUESTION: IN THAT CONNECTION, SIR, DID YOU DISCUSS
THE POSSIBILITY OF A SUMMIT MEETING, AND CAN YOU
COMMENT ON WHETHER YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA?
MR. GROMYKO: WELL, WE DID NOT DISCUSS THAT QUESTION
AS SUCH. BUT THE STATEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY
BOTH THE ONE AND THE OTHER SIDE ON THAT SCORE ARE WELL
KNOWN. A MEETING UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS IS
POSSIBLE. 'CONDITIONS' IS TOO STRONG--UNDER CERTAIN
'CIRCUMSTANCES'.

QUESTION: COULD YOU TELL US WHAT THEY MIGHT BE,
MR. MINISTER? WHAT CONDITIONS DO YOU FEEL WOULD...

MR. GROMYKO: I WOULD NOT LIKE TO SPECIFY.

QUESTION: MR. GROMYKO, DID YOU AND THE SECRETARY DISCUSS
ANY KIND OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS THAT OUR COUNTRY MIGHT
APPLY AGAINST YOUR COUNTRY IF...

MR. GROMYKO: I GUESS THE SECRETARY WILL AGREE IF I
SAY THAT WE DISCUSSED NO SUCH QUESTION.

MR. VANCE: WE DISCUSSED NO SUCH QUESTION.

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QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, HAS THE DECISION BEEN MADE ON THE SALE OF COMPUTERS TO THE SOVIET UNION?

MR. VANCE: NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

QUESTION: WHAT PROGRESS WAS MADE ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN?

MR. VANCE: WE REVIEWED THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN WITH THE HEADS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS, AND HAD A CHANCE TO PUT QUESTIONS TO THE TWO SIDES. NO SPECIFIC NEW DECISIONS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT WAS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF OUR CONVERSATIONS, BUT IT WAS HELPFUL TO HAVE A CHANCE TO FIND OUT WHERE THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES ARE AND WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES ARE OF RESOLVING THEM.

QUESTION: IS THAT TREATY TIED TO THE COMPLETION OF THE SALT II AGREEMENT SO THAT IT WILL NOT BE FINISHED BEFORE SALT II?

MR. GROMYKO: FROM OUR STANDPOINT THERE IS NO DIRECT TIE BETWEEN THEM AND WE ARE, IN FACT, AGAINST SUCH A UNCLASSIFIED

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POSITION. EACH OF THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS AND I GUESS THE SECRETARY CAN SAY WHAT THE U.S. POSITION IS.

MR. VANCE: I HAVE NO DIFFERENCE ON THAT.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, IT IS NOT CLEAR TO ME--HAVE YOU MADE PROGRESS ON A MATTER OF ATMOSPHERICS, OR HAVE YOU MADE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS? I DON'T HEAR ANY TALK OF BRICK BY BRICK THIS TIME. HAVE YOU LAID ANY BRICKS? ARE THERE ANY, EVEN PARTS OF ISSUES THAT YOU CAN CHECK OFF AS COMPLETED?

MR. VANCE: I SAID THAT NEW IDEAS WERE PUT FORWARD BY BOTH SIDES AND I ALSO SAID AS DID THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT WE THOUGHT THAT AS A RESULT OF THOSE EXCHANGES THAT WE HAD HAD A USEFUL SESSION WHICH PROVIDED A BASIS FOR NARROWING THE DIFFERENCES.

QUESTION: MR. MINISTER, SECRETARY VANCE PASSED A MESSAGE TO YOU TO PASS ON TO PRESIDENT BRESHNEV FROM PRESIDENT CARTER. DID YOU ALREADY TRANSMIT A REPLY, OR DO YOU INTEND TO TRANSMIT A REPLY FROM PRESIDENT BRESHNEV?

MR. GROMYKO: MUST I ANSWER THAT QUESTION? I HAVE GOT TO KEEP AT LEAST ONE LITTLE SECRET TO MYSELF. AT LEAST A SECRET OF A PROCEDURAL NATURE. LET ME JUST, TURNING TO SALT, SAY, AND I TRUST THE SECRETARY WILL AGREE, THAT ON BOTH SIDES THERE WERE SOME NEW IDEAS EXPRESSED. BUT SOMETIMES TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS FROM SUCH IDEAS IT REQUIRES THE SUN TO RISE MORE THAN ONCE--MORE THAN TWICE.

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QUESTION: MR. MINISTER, I UNDERSTAND THAT NEW IDEAS WERE EXPRESSED BUT WERE ANY NEW IDEAS ACCEPTED? THAT IS THE DISTINCTION THAT ISN'T CLEAR TO ME. I KNOW YOU SPOKE TO EACH OTHER, BUT DID ANYBODY CONVINCE ANYBODY OF ANYTHING?

MR. GROMYKO: WELL, YOU KNOW DECISIONS ARE NOT TAKEN WITH THE SUDDENNESS OF A CLOUDBURST, AND YOU KNOW HOW MUCH TIME HAS ELAPSED SINCE VLADIVOSTOK. FOR INSTANCE, SO SOME OF THESE THINGS TAKE TIME BEFORE DECISIONS CAN BE MADE, BUT IF THERE IS INTEREST IN RESOLVING THE ISSUE, IF THERE IS DESIRE, IT CAN BE DONE. BY VIRTUE OF DISCUSSION, OF COURSE, YOU ARE NOT AN EASY NEGOTIATOR. YOU DO NOT MIND?

MR. VANCE: NO.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, HAVE YOU MADE A BASIS HERE, DO YOU FEEL, FOR ENDING THE DETERIORATION IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AND BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR IMPROVING OUR TIES?

MR. VANCE: WELL, I HOPE THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS CAN HELP LEAD US TOWARDS A BETTERING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR COUNTRIES DO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS AND ANYTHING THAT EITHER OF US CAN DO TO MOVE US ALONG THAT PATH WOULD BE VERY CONSTRUCTIVE.

QUESTION: MR. GROMYKO, DO YOU (UNINTELLIGIBLE).

MR. GROMYKO: I HOPE YOU WILL WRITE OBJECTIVELY ABOUT THIS PRESS CONFERENCE. END OF BRIEFING. VANDEN HEUVAL

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